

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant submits below a complete listing of the current claims, including marked-up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A catheter comprising:

a longitudinal catheter shaft for positioning an ablation electrode within a patient's body;
and
an ablation electrode disposed on the shaft and having an outer ablating surface,
wherein the electrode is convertible from a first configuration in which the electrode outer ablating surface has a first axial size and a first radial size to a second configuration in which the electrode outer ablating surface has a second axial size and maintains the first radial size;

wherein

the ablation electrode comprises a first electrode portion and a second electrode portion, the first electrode portion having an outer ablating surface, and the second electrode portion having a length and being moveable in the axial direction of the catheter, wherein in the first configuration more of the second electrode portion length is contained within the first electrode portion than in the second configuration.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein in the first configuration, the second electrode portion length is fully contained within the first electrode portion.

4. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the ablation electrode comprises a third electrode portion that is at least partially contained within the second electrode portion in the first configuration.

5. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein a pull wire is connected to the second electrode portion.

6. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the ablation electrode is a ring electrode.

7. (Original) The catheter according to claim 6, wherein the first electrode portion and the second electrode portion are cylindrical.

8.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a longitudinal catheter shaft for positioning an ablation electrode within a patient's body;
and
an ablation electrode having an electrode length and disposed on the shaft, the electrode having a continuous outer ablating surface area with an outer ablating surface area length, and the electrode having portions which stay in electrical contact with one another;

wherein the continuous outer ablating surface area length is adjustable;
the ablation electrode length is adjustable; and
the electrode is substantially comprised of metal.

12. (Original) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the electrode is substantially comprised of at least one of: platinum; silver; gold; chromium; aluminum and tungsten.

13. (Original) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the electrode is substantially comprised of a combination of at least two of: platinum; silver; gold; chromium; aluminum and tungsten.

14.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) An ablation electrode for ablating tissue, comprising:
a first ablation electrode portion configured for mounting on a catheter shaft, the first ablation electrode portion having an outer ablating surface configured to emit electrical energy;
and

a second ablation electrode portion configured for mounting on the catheter shaft, the second ablation electrode portion having an outer ablating surface configured to emit electrical energy; wherein

the second ablation electrode portion is moveable from a first position substantially inside the first ablation electrode portion to a second position substantially outside the first ablation electrode portion.

17. (Previously presented) The ablation electrode according to claim 16, further comprising a third ablation electrode portion configured for mounting on the catheter shaft, the third ablation electrode portion having an outer ablating surface configured to emit electrical energy, wherein

the third ablation electrode portion is moveable from a first position substantially inside the second ablation electrode portion to a second position substantially outside the second ablation electrode portion.

18. (Currently amended) The ablation electrode according to claim 16, in combination with a longitudinal catheter shaft for positioning an ablation electrode within a patient's body, wherein the first ablation electrode portion and the second ablation electrode portion are mounted on the catheter shaft.

19. (Original) The combination according to claim 18, further comprising a pull wire configured to move the second electrode portion.

20.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A catheter according to claim 16, wherein the first ablation electrode portion and the second ablation electrode portion are electrically connected.

33. (Previously presented) A catheter according to claim 1, wherein the first electrode portion is in electrical contact with an electrical lead, and the second electrode portion is in electrical contact with the same electrical lead.

34. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a longitudinal catheter shaft for positioning an ablation electrode within a patient's body;
and

an electrically conductive element disposed on the shaft and connectable to an energy supply, an exposed portion of the electrically conductive element being usable as an ablation electrode, wherein the exposed portion of the electrically conductive element is convertible from a first configuration, in which the electrically conductive element has a first axial length and a first radial size along a first axial section of the shaft and a first axial length, to a second configuration in which the exposed portion of the electrically conductive element has a second, longer axial length as compared to the first axial length, and maintains the first radial size along the first axial section of the shaft.